

that on February 8, 2007 he had a seizure at work which was caused by traumatic stress. Additionally, in the March 15, 2011 decision, OWCP noted reviewing the other claim file and findings made in claim number xxxxx433 in reaching its decision.

The Board has duly considered the matter and notes that the case is not in posture for a decision. The claim before the Board, number xxxxxx748, involves appellant's claim for an emotional condition. In the March 15, 2011 decision, OWCP noted reviewing evidence and findings made in claim number xxxxx433, also for a stress condition, in reaching its decision. This indicates that file number xxxxxx433 may have evidence germane to claim number xxxxxx748. Pursuant to OWCP procedures, OWCP has determined that cases should be combined where correct adjudication depends on cross-referencing between files.³ In the instant appeal, it appears that, for a full and fair adjudication, its claims pertaining to appellant's emotional conditions should be combined pursuant its procedures. This will allow OWCP to consider all relevant claim files in developing appellant's claim.

The case will be remanded to OWCP to combine case file numbers xxxxxx748 and xxxxxx433. Following this and such other development as deemed necessary, it shall issue an appropriate merit decision on appellant's claim.⁴

³ Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 – Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8(c) (February 2000).

⁴ Appellant also submitted new evidence on appeal. However, the Board may not consider evidence for the first time on appeal. *See* 20 C.F.R. § 501.2(c).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the March 15, 2011 decision be set aside and the matter remanded to the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: January 12, 2012
Washington, DC

Richard J. Daschbach, Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Alec J. Koromilas, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board